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*Social England.* From the Accession of James I. to the Death of Anne. By various writers. Edited by H. D. TRAILL, London: Cassell and Co., New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1895. 8vo. pp. viii+632.

THE fourth volume of that mosaic known as Traill's *Social England* evinces so many of the same class of defects (with here and there an excellence) that have been noticed in reviews of the preceding volumes that any further extended notice is unnecessary. The work covers the history of England from the accession of the Stuarts to the death of Anne. Many of the contributors have done able writing in other fields of history. But in such cases they have written under the stimulus of independent inspiration; when they attempt to write upon set themes assigned to them by the editor, their product lacks spontaneity. But at times even standard authorities fail, and when the masters stumble, the reader is inclined to read all with suspicion. For example, Messrs. Oman and Clowes are recognized authorities upon military and naval science, yet the former has overlooked completely the really important late discovery that the British red uniform owes its origin to the "model army." Mr. Clowes is far worse: Blake is apparently the only British seaman of the seventeenth century worth remembering, while the two Tromps, father and son, play hide-and-seek with his pen continually. Mr. Hutton's account of "The Episcopacy and its Adversaries" is a sympathetic and painstaking contribution. But Mr. Hutton is too earnest an advocate of episcopacy to be an impartial writer; while he is severe upon much of Cromwell's conduct, he fails to explain the condition of affairs that made such conduct necessary; *e. g.*, when it is stated that Cromwell's military régime was repugnant to previous ideas of toleration, he neglects to say that it was the conspiracy of the royalists and the episcopate that led to this drastic treatment.

As a whole, then, Mr. Traill's last volume is no greater a success than the earlier volumes. In fact it is less so, for the cumulative effect of an erroneous method is to alienate the true student of history.

JAMES WESTFALL THOMPSON.